

Abide Part 12: A Fruitful Life (11-25-2018)

This Series: Abide - Living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

3 Parts: Who is the Holy Spirit, Cultivating our relationship with Him, and then how He flows through us.

Fruit of the Spirit:

- **It is called Fruit not Fruits** – They are 1 single fruit, all produced by the Presence of God
- **The Purpose of Fruit** - Tastes good, Satisfies the hungry, Spreads the seed (so more is produced)
- **The Fruit is** – God’s Character, my satisfaction, and food for all

Last Week: The fruit of the Spirit is love. It is fitting that **love** be the first mentioned, because it encompasses all of the following. It may even be said that the following eight terms are just describing what **love** in action looks like.

Today: The other 8 items on the list of fruit . . .

1) Joy – Joy, rejoicing, gladness

In **John 15** where Jesus talks about the absolute essential need for Abiding in Him and the power of Love, he says to the disciples:

John 15:11 (ESV)

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Throughout scripture Joy is never circumstantial, and instead is often in spite of the current circumstances . . .

Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)

(1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Notes: Joy is very closely tied to **Hope & Endurance** in the trials of this life

James 1:2-4 (ESV)

(2) Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, (3) for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (4) And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Notes: This is how Jesus lived, and now we can only live like this through Him!

How can we experience Joy like this? A deep realization of how valuable the Gospel of Jesus really is . . .

Matthew 13:44 (ESV)

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Notes: This verse can be understood 2 different ways!

- **It's about His love for us – we are the treasure!**
- **And our love for Him – He is our treasure!**
- **That's what produces Joy – a mutual love & connection!**

2) **Peace** – It has nothing to do with stoic **indifference** or **apathy**, or **selfish non-disturbance**.

The peace that God gives is never to be identified with selfish unconcern. God's peace is independent of outside conditions and is the fruit of a real salvation with God.

- **Past** - Jesus has settled it.

John 14:27 (ESV)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

- **Present** – Jesus is with me in it.

Romans 5:1 (ESV)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 14:19 (ESV)

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Romans 12:18 (ESV)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

- **Future** – Jesus has secured it.

Romans 15:13 (ESV)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

3) **Patience** (Longsuffering or Forbearance)

Greek word: Patience in dealing to people (as opposed to **Endurance** in respect to circumstances)

When used of God towards us, the concept is closely tied to showing Mercy

Definition: Endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance, self-restraint before proceeding to action, slowness in avenging wrongs. The quality of a person who is able to avenge himself yet refrains from doing so.

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)

(1) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, (2) with all humility and gentleness, with **patience**, bearing with one another in love, (3) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Note: Amy & I are united in marriage; however, we are not always united in thought or mood!

2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with **complete patience** and teaching.

Note: Life together requires patience with each other: love, correction, encouragement, sticking with people!

4) **Kindness** (Gentleness) – mellow or passive goodness

It is the grace that pervades the whole nature, mellowing all that would be been harsh. Thus, wine is mellowed with age.

Definition: Moral goodness, integrity, benign, kindness, usefulness.

Titus 3:3-7 (ESV)

(3) For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. (4) But when the goodness and **loving kindness** of God our Savior appeared, (5) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7) so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Note: God's loving-kindness is what saved us, and now washes and renews us!

We really have to look at **Kindness** and **Goodness** together, they are like 2 sides of the same coin . . .

5) **Goodness** – active good, benevolence, zealous

Definition: Uprightness of heart and life, goodness, kindness, Active goodness.

It is different than the last word – **kindness** (a mellowing of character).

It is character energized, expressing itself in benevolence, active good. There is more activity in this word, and it does not spare sharpness and rebuke to cause good in others. A person may display his goodness, or his zeal for goodness and truth, in rebuking, correcting, or chastising.

Romans 15:14 (NKJV)

Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NKJV)

(11) Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of **His goodness** and the work of faith with power, (12) that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Kindness & Goodness are meant to work together . . . Here is a word picture that might best capture this!

Matthew 10:16 (ESV)

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

- **Passive kindness alone is weak and ineffective**
- **Goodness on it's own can be harsh and hurtful**
- **But working together they are powerful – kind and good people affect change in the world**
- **Think of Jesus clearing the temple – thoughtful, purposeful, & zealous**

6) **Faithfulness** – fidelity, faithfulness, the character of one who can be relied on

Being faithful or sincere, you can be counted upon. Trustworthy, and you can have full confidence in them.

Jesus' parable of the shrewd manager concludes with this assessment . . .

Luke 16:10-12 (ESV)

(10) One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. (11) If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? (12) And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

3 principles: faithful with **little**, faithful with money (**material**) then entrusted with real riches, faithful with **someone else's stuff** (serve/steward/manage another's goods or business) then given your own.

7) **Gentleness** (same as Meekness) - Meekness, mildness, forbearance

Primarily it does not denote outward expression of feeling, but an inward grace of the soul, calmness toward God in particular.

a) It is the acceptance of God's dealings with us considering them as good in that they enhance the closeness of our relationship with Him.

Matthew 5:5 (ESV)

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

b) According to Aristotle, gentleness is that virtue that stands between two extremes . . .

- The uncontrolled and unjustified anger (see quickly angry)
- Not becoming angry at all, no matter what takes place around you

1 Corinthians 4:21 (ESV)

What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

Note: Gentleness is restrained strength – You could use it but you don't, or you use it to protect the ones you love. A strong man who is gentle with his kids, but will fight anyone who would harm them.

The Gentleness of Jesus is the antidote to scraping & clawing our way through life . . .

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)

(28) Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

And now we are called to be gentle with one another – if for no other reason, then we would want that ourselves in our moment of weakness and struggle . . .

Galatians 6:1-3 (ESV)

(1) Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. (2) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (3) For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

8) Self control (Temperance) - the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions

Mastery or Self Control – A Temperate person is . . .

- 1) Strong, robust
- 2) Have power over something
- 3) Mastering, controlling, curbing, restraining

This word for self-control is from a root word . . .

Greek word – Kratos: translated strength, power, or dominion in KJV

This concept of power is used to describe God’s Power & Rule: 1 Timothy, 1 Peter, Jude, Revelation

Ephesians 6:10-11 (ESV)

(10) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the **strength of his might**. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Self Control here is the word – Enkratos: means being in control of the power you have.

So Self-Control is: Harnessed or controlled power – able to wield it and not be controlled by it. Honed skills that make you powerful.

Colossians 1:9-12 (ESV)

(9) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, (10) so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (11) May you be strengthened with all power, according to **his glorious might**, for all endurance and patience with joy, (12) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Conclusion: Jesus offers satisfying fruit, and He wants for us to find it in Him, enjoy it ourselves, and pass it on!